THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per our records, no complaint or request regarding improper functioning of postal services in Sector 4,5,etc., of Vaishali in Ghaziabad district has been received. On further enquiry, the delivery arrangements of these sectors were found to be satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Commemorative stamp on Guru Arjun Dev Ji

1653. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan Government have issued a commemorative stamp on Guru Arjun Dev Ji on his 400 years of the martyrdom day;

(b) if so, whether Government have any such plan for issuance of a commemorative stamp to honour Guru Arjun Dev Ji on this ocassion; and

(c) if so, by when it would be issued and whether any commemorative stamp on any of the ten Sikh Gurus have been issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Proposal for issue of a commemorative postage stamp on Guru Arjun Dev Ji has been received by the Department. Proposals for issue of commemorative postage stamps are examined on the basis of certain guidelines which are meant to ensure that the postage stamps, when issued, have adequate philatelic value. After examination of the proposal, it has been decided to place the same before the philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) which is a duly constituted body meant to consider and recommend on the stamp proposals received by the Department, at his next meeting.

(c) Issuance of commemorative postage stamp on Guru Arjun Dev is subject to the recommendations of the Philatelic Advisory Committee and other administrative considerations. Details of the stamps issued so far on the ten Sikh Gurus are as under:—

	Name of Sikh Gurus	Date of issue
(0	Guru Gobind Singh Ji	17.01.1967
(ii)	Guru Nanak Dev Ji	23.11.1969
(iii)	Guru Teg Bahadur Ji	16.12.1975
(iv)	Guru Amar Das Ji	21.12.1979

Telephone exchanges in Maharashtra

1654. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of all the district of Maharashtra particularly in Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Pune, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more telephone exchanges in the said districts of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, a total of 4241 telephone exchanges of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are set up in rural areas of Maharashtra. Of these, 162 telephone exchanges are in rural areas of Ratnagiri, 99 in Sindhudurg and 210 telephone exchanges in rural areas of Pune. District-wise details are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) The rural areas of Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri and Pune SSAs in Maharashtra telecom circle are planned for complete coverage by CDMA Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology.